

CLAIMS

1. A towing pintle assembly comprising:
 - a first jaw member for attachment in use to a towing vehicle;
 - a second jaw member movably mounted on said first member for
5 movement between a closed position, in which said first and second jaw
members co-operate for retaining in use a towing eye of a towed vehicle
and an open position in which in use a towing eye may be withdrawn
from or introduced between said jaw members;
 - a locking member pivotally mounted on said second jaw member and
10 arranged such that, when said second jaw member is in its closed
position, said locking member may be moved between a locked position
in which a locking surface on said locking member faces a relatively fixed
abutment surface, such that movement of said second jaw member
towards its open position is prevented by said locking surface abutting
15 said abutment surface, and a release position in which said second
member may be pivoted to the open position, and
 - fluid-operated means for urging said locking member from said locking
position to said release position, to allow said second jaw member to be
moved to its open position.
- 20 2. A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said first jaw
member is relatively fixed and includes means for attachment, in use, to
the towed vehicle.
3. A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said
second jaw member is of hooked form and directed downwardly thereby
25 in use to pass through a towing eye to carry a major part of the drag load
from the towed vehicle.
4. A towing pintle assembly according to any of the preceding claims,
wherein said second jaw member is pivotally mounted on said first jaw
member, and said locking member is pivotally mounted on said second

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jaw member, by respective generally parallel and horizontal respective pivots.

5. A towing pintle assembly according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said locking means is manually moveable between said locked and released positions.
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6. A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 5, wherein said releasable retention means comprises a locking pin.
7. A towing pintle assembly according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said fluid-operated means comprise at least one fluid-operated ram.
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8. A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said fluid-operated means comprises two fluid-operated rams in spaced parallel relationship and adapted to co-operate with spaced regions on said locking member, the fluid-operated rams being connected to a common fluid passage.
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9. A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 2 or any claim dependent thereon, wherein, in use, said first jaw member is mounted on said attachment means for movement about a rotary axis.
10. A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 9, including rotary lock means for locking said first jaw member against rotational movement.
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